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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

RHAYADER.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Rhayader Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1936.

Area in Acres	91,240
Estimated Population, mid 1936 (Resident)	4,596
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,263
Rateable Value	£115,963
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	£476

The District is agricultural and Occupation is not a factor in causing ill-health.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	25	30	55
Illegitimate ...	1	7	8
	26	37	63

BIRTH RATE :—13.70 per 1,000 population.
The Birth Rate for England and Wales covering the same period was 14.8.

STILL BIRTHS— Nil

DEATHS—

Male	Female	Total
26	35	61

DEATH RATE—13.27 per 1,000 population. The Death Rate for England and Wales for the same period was 12.1 per 1,000.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0	1
Cancer	4	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	1	1
Heart Disease	3	14
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	2
Bronchitis	0	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0
Other Digestive Diseases	1	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	3
Congenital Debility Premature Birth etc.	2	1
Senility	0	3
Violence other than Suicide	0	3
Other defined Causes	5	2
Total	26	35

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes during the Year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of age—

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
		3	3	6

DEATH RATE of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	95.23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	109.09
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil

There were no deaths from Cancer.

There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

No deaths occured during the year from Diarrhoea amongst children under two years of age.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

One District Medical Officer of Health (part time), who also peforms the duties of Public Vaccinator.
One Sanitary Inspector (part time.)

Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made during the year.

Ambulance Facilites.

No alteration in the arrangement for the transport of cases by ambulance has been made

No Ambulance for the moving of Infectious Cases is available in the district.

Nursing in the Home.

No change has been made in the Nursing Services of the District during the past year.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres available to the inhabitants of this District apart from those already existing, have been opened during the year.

Hospitals.

Cases of Puerperal Fever are now admitted to the Hereford General Hospital or to the Berrington Hospital near Shrewsbury instead of being admitted into the Llandrindod Hospital as formerly. With this exception no change in the Hospital Accomodation for the Area has been made during the year.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

A pipe-line to supply water the Bwlchysarnau School and a few houses in the immediate vicinity was completed during the year. The spring water thus supplied has been satisfactory in quality and sufficient in quantity.

The pipe-line to supply water to the village of Llanyre and a number of farm-houses along the course of the line was completed before the end of the year. This water is satisfactory as to quality and quantity. The water supplied by the public reservoirs of Rhayader has been satisfactory both as to quality and quantity.

No sample has been taken for analysis during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage coming from the central portion of Rhayader requires more efficient treatment than it at present receives.

Rivers and Streams.

No action in regard to pollution has been taken during the year.

Closet Accomodation

There were 431 closets of the water carriage system and 18 of the conservancy system at the end of the year. Eleven of the latter were converted to the former type.

Public Cleansing.

No extension of arrangements for Public Cleansing has been made during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspector of the Rural District of Rhayader for the year ended 31st December, 1936.

	No.
Complaints investigated ...	16
Letters written	1
NUISANCES—	
No. of visits re nuisances ...	16
No. of visits re works in progress	Nil
Notices Issued	
(a) Informal ...	Nil
(b) Statutory ...	11
Notices outstanding ...	Nil
Legal proceedings taken	Nil
HOUSING.	
FOOD PREPARING PLACES.	
No. of Inspections ...	30
SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, Etc.	
No. registered or Licensed ...	8
No. of Inspections ..	14
No. of voluntary surrenders of carcases or part of a carcase on account of—	
(a) Tuberculosis	Nil
(b) Other Diseases ...	Nil
No. of voluntary surrenders of other unsound food ...	Nil
No. of seizures of unsound food	Nil
COWSHEDS.	
No. of persons registered ...	50
No. of inspections... ...	61
STABLES AND PIGGERIES. ...	10
No. of inspections ..	19
DAIRIES.	
No. of persons registered ...	50
No. of inspections ...	61
MILK-SHOPS.	
No. of persons registered ...	Nil
No. of Inspections ...	Nil
LODGING HOUSES.	
No. registered	Nil
No. of Inspections ...	Nil
OFFENSIVE TRADES	
No. registered	Nil
No of Inspections ...	Nil
WATER SUPPLY.	
Wells Sunk	Nil

	No.
No. of Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	2
No. found polluted ...	Nil
No. of wells repaired ...	Nil
No. of wells cleansed ...	Nil
No. of houses connected to main supply	431
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	
No. of enquiries	2
No. of cases removed to Isolation Hospital	Nil
No. of houses disinfected ...	2
Bedding and clothing disinfected	2
No. of houses disinfected in connection with fleas, lice etc. ...	Nil
HOUSE DRAINAGE.	
No. laid or relaid ...	10
No. cleaned, trapped, ventilated	10
Spouting, waterpipes, sinks, etc., rectified	Nil
No. of Cesspools cleansed ...	Nil
No. of Cesspools repaired ...	Nil
WATER CLOSETS.	
No. provided	431
No. unapproved repaired ...	Nil
BAKE-HOUSES.	
No. registered	8
No. of Inspections ...	16
WORKSHOPS.	
No. registered	21
No. of inspections ...	22
SCAVENGING.	
No. of Privies emptied ...	Town collected twice weekly
No. of Ashpits emptied ...	
No. of Cesspools emptied...	
No. of accumulations of refuse removed ...	
PRIVIES, ASHPITS.	
No. of new.	Nil
No. repaired	Nil
No. converted to W.Cs. ...	Nil
No. converted to Pail Closets ...	2
No. converted to Earth Closets ...	Nil
Other	Nil
Total number of inspections made	350

(Signed) F. WORTHING,

Sanitary Inspector.

Shops.

No action under the Shops Act, 1934, has been taken.

The sanitary arrangements of those premises in the District which come under the classification of factories workshops and work places have been inspected and found to to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement

No action was taken during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimmg baths or pools open to the public at present existent in the district.

Eradiction of Bed Bugs.

Up to the present no premises in the district have been found to be infested with this species of vermin.

Schools.

The Sanitary conditions of the schools in the area are for the most part good.

No complaints as to the water supply of any school has been received.

A piped water supply has been provided for one school during the year.

One School has been closed for a short period owing to Influenza and Conjunctivitis

Two other Schools in the district have been closed on account of a pupil found to be suffering from Diphtheria.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES during the year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	52
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	70
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-housing (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR, WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	Nil

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices—	
(a) By the Owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	25
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	25
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	5
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The farms and dairies in the district where milk is produced for sale have been inspected and found to be in a sanitary condition.

Samples of milk for examination have been taken by the Sanitary Officer for the district. Some of the samples examined have shown an excessive bacterial contamination.

No legal action has been taken against any milk dealer during the year.

No tuberculous person is engaged in the milk trade.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No action has been taken against any vendor of meat or other food.

The slaughter-houses and bakehouses have been inspected and found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

(c) ADULTERATION.

No action has been taken in regard to adulteration of food in the district.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The bacteriological examination of milk samples is carried out at the University College of Wales (Agricultural Department), Aberystwyth.

Samples of food, water and milk can be sent for examination to the County Analyst, The Temple, Dale Street, Liverpool.

(e) NUTRITION.

Information on this subject from a variety of sources has been available to the public for some time past. More attention is being paid to the problem in this district than formerly. Nevertheless, it would appear that in many instances the practical application of its principles is very imperfectly understood.

(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscum).

No shell-fish are produced in the district.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

A few cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. One case of Pharyngeal Diphtheria in a child of 7 occurred.

There was a small outbreak of Influenza amongst the pupils of one school in the district.

Five notices of illness amongst the pupils were received from teachers.

Thirty primary vaccinations were performed by the vaccination officer during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	8	—	1
Other Diseases generally notifiable viz Erysipelas	2	—	—
Other Diseases notifiable locally ...	—	—	—

The case of Scarlet Fever was 14 years of age.

The case of Diphtheria was 7 years of age.

The case of Puerperal Fever was aged 34.

The ages of the eight patients notified as suffering from Pneumonia were 18 months 3, 6, 8, 10, 18, 56, and 57 years respectively.

The age of the two patients suffering from Erysipelas was in each case 40 years.

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, during the year.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

New Cases and Mortality during 1936.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. T. LIPPIATT,

District Medical Officer of Health.

2nd September, 1937.